



Department of Justice

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Western District of Oklahoma

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**FORMER ELGIN POSTMASTER PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT FROM
POSTAL SERVICE AND Agrees to Pay Over \$642,000 in Restitution**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Today, **James E. Draheim**, 63, from Elgin, Oklahoma, pled guilty to theft of public funds from the United States Postal Service and filing a false tax return, announced Sanford C. Coats, United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Draheim was employed as the Postmaster in Elgin, Oklahoma and from October 2005 through September 2009 used his position of trust to embezzle from the United States Postal Service. Specifically, Draheim took money paid by postal customers for bulk mailings, failed to credit the customer's account for the full amount of the check, and then embezzled the difference by purchasing money orders in his own name which he then used for his own personal benefit. Draheim was charged on September 1, 2010. Today he pled guilty to theft of public funds and filing a false tax return for the 2008 tax year.

At sentencing, Draheim faces up to 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and mandatory restitution. As part of his plea, Draheim agreed to pay restitution to the Postal Service in the amount of \$642,808.46 and to the IRS for all taxes owed for tax years 2005 through 2008.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General and the IRS Criminal Investigative Division. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Vicki Zemp Behenna.

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